

the old Yogi Berra malapropism about experiencing *deja vu* all over again.

I am also at a loss as to the rationale for including in this bill certain site-specific earmarks like the \$300,000 to transfer excess housing to Indian tribes of North and South Dakota. And mention should be made of the usual Buy America restrictions included in the bill, with a notable exception when it is in the interest of important Members of Congress. Section 112, for example, prohibits the use of funds in the bill to award contracts worth more than \$1 million to foreign contractors, except when a Marshallese contractor is seeking contracts at Kwajalein. The \$7 million in the bill "to ensure the availability of biometrics technologies" will require more research.

It will be very interesting to discover the motivation behind that little phrase.

I would like to point out that the report on this bill was filed late, and thus the information available to Senators about specific projects included in this bill is somewhat limited.

We get into an interesting habit of taking up legislation around here without a report available for the Members to read. If history is any guide, however, skepticism regarding many items added to this bill is warranted. Enough is known about the process by which appropriations bills are put together to justify continued outrage at abuse of the system to satisfy parochial considerations.

Mr. President, the abuse of the Future Years Defense Plan as a criteria for adding projects to military spending bills is seriously out of control. Witness, for example, the number of projects in this bill that are in the fourth or fifth year of the FYDP and that have had no design work done. At least 17 such projects were added to the bill. While they are listed as executable, should we really be advancing unrequested projects by four and five years at the same time we continue to ignore the disgrace of 12,000 military families on food stamps?

It was interesting to see, Mr. President, that the authorization bill for military construction includes a provision equating the term "Readiness Center" to the term "Armory." We all enjoy semantic gamesmanship now and again, but if we are going to continue to funnel money back home to National Guard Armories, let's just say so. Let's not exploit the legitimate issue of military readiness that we are finally focused on in order to conduct the same old pork-barrel spending practices that are as much a part of this institution as the collegial colloquialisms that characterize our demeanor on the Senate floor.

There are 28 members of the Appropriations Committee. Only two do not have projects added to the appropriations bill. I wonder what happened to the other two. Perhaps the manager of the bill can tell us what occurred there.

Those numbers, needless to say, go well beyond the realm of mere coincidence. Of 145 projects added to this bill, 111 are in states represented by Senators on the Appropriations Committee, totaling over \$700 million. The \$12 million added to the bill for the first phase of an access road in Hawaii, the \$25 million added for a Joint Mobility Complex in Alaska, the \$4 million added for Army National Guard parking in Kentucky, the \$14 million added for a fuel cell maintenance dock in Louisiana, the \$4.5 million added for an Army National Guard administration building in Nevada, the \$10 million added for an Army National Guard Readiness Center (read: Armory) in North Dakota, the \$10 million added for the first phase of a base civil engineer complex in South Dakota, and the \$1.4 million for channel dredging in Mississippi, are just a handful of the projects added by members that were not in the budget request. Forts Richardson and Wainwright, both in Alaska, fared particularly well, the latter receiving \$300,000 for a trail and \$900,000 for a biathlon live fire course—which could only be considered a close cousin to the previously mentioned money for the upcoming Winter Olympics.

Yet, many of the Senators whose projects are included in this bill continue to oppose spending just \$6 million a year to remove military families from the rolls of those eligible for food stamps. If I sound repetitive, Mr. President, it is out of frustration—frustration at the ability of my colleagues to close their eyes to the disgraceful plight of thousands of our enlisted personnel who don't make enough money to feed themselves and their families.

I believe I have made my point. As usual, I labor under no illusions regarding the impact my comments will have on the way we do business here. I have in the past attempted legislative recourse to pork-barrel spending, and I will do so again. But the history of votes on such efforts causes me to exercise that right sparingly. My self-restraint is simply an acknowledgment that I represent a small minority of this body. Wasteful and unnecessary spending continues because most Members of Congress truly believe that it is one of their primary reasons for being here. I submit, Mr. President, that a wide line exists between serving one's constituents in the context of our nation's best interests and simply funneling money back home because that's how we remind our constituents to vote for us again.

About 2 weeks ago, there was a study completed concerning the deplorable state of the U.S. Army. More captains are leaving the U.S. Army than at anytime in history. We will shortly have a Senate authorization bill, as well as this and other appropriations bills. They don't address this problem. I can guarantee those captains aren't leaving the Army because they need \$12 million for the first phase of an access road in Hawaii, or \$25 million for a joint mobil-

ity complex in Alaska, or \$4 million for Army National Guard parking in Kentucky.

If the Republican leadership and the chairmen of these committees continue to spend taxpayers' dollars in this profligate manner, sooner or later the American people will repudiate those actions. I hope it will be sooner rather than later.

The thing that is particularly appalling to me is that this appropriations profligate spending of unauthorized, unnecessary, wasteful pork barrel spending continues at a greater rate every year than the previous year. It will stop sooner or later. I believe it will stop sooner because this bill is a classic example of the abrogation of our responsibilities to average taxpayers, those who are not represented here in Washington, DC.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BURNS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Iowa.

TEN SMART THINGS TO DO WHILE YOU AGE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, getting old is probably the most universal experience no one really likes to talk about. Sure, people talk about minor aches and pains, but the big topics are unmentionable. They include paying for a funeral, preparing for a nursing home stay, or getting checked for prostate problems. These things make people uncomfortable, but they really should not. Consider Katie Couric's comment about colon cancer. She said, "Some people find the procedures like . . . colonoscopies unappealing. I can tell you they are all much more appealing than dying of this disease."

In honor of Older Americans Month, I encourage aging adults—and that means all of us—to mention the unmentionable, and to think the unthinkable. Once you get these chores done, the rest of your years will be a day in the country. Here are 10 Smart Things to Do While You Age:

1. Secure your retirement income. One financial planner said saving for